United Nations E/CN.5/2019/NGO/20

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
1 November 2018

Original: English

Commission for Social Development
Fifty-seventh session
11–21 February 2019
Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly Priority Theme: Addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through fiscal, wage and social protection policies

Statement submitted by Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic, Inc., Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary — Loreto Generalate, Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic, Inc., Partnership for Global Justice, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

18-18370 (E) 091118

Please recycle

Statement

Addressing the rising inequalities that exist within and among countries is an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. This growing gap challenges social inclusion and must be overcome through fiscal, wage and social protection policies in order to uphold the inherent and inalienable dignity of all human beings. The growing disparities between access, opportunity, wealth and gender is of major concern. The United Nations and member states must step up to their commitments and efforts to eliminate the inequalities that are exacerbating extreme poverty. There must be a shift towards integral human development, a model that works towards combating inequality through the inclusion of every individual of society in its social, political, and economic policies.

Inequalities across social, economic and environmental pillars leave people living in poverty stigmatized, marginalized, and excluded from society, and is an urgent human rights concern. Their right to development is hindered and achieving progress is slow, if not stagnant. In order to lift people out of extreme poverty and work towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particular attention must be devoted to universal social protection so that no one is left behind. Social protection policies, including social protection floors are essential for social inclusion and must be integrated.

According to data presented in the World Social Protection Report 2017/19, only 45 per cent of the global population is effectively covered by at least one social benefit, leaving four billion people unprotected. Findings by the ILO World Social Protection Report show that within this:

- Only 35 percent of children worldwide have access to social protection.
- Only 41 percent of new mothers receive a maternity benefit.
- Only 68 percent of people above retirement age receive old-age pension.
- Only 44 percent of the world population have access to health coverage.

Implementing National Floors of Social Protection (ILO Recommendation 202) is an essential, action-oriented policy that ensures governments uphold their primary responsibility to provide basic social protection to their citizens. In order to be sustainable, these social protection services must be universal, and inclusive of all people, ensuring the fulfillment of civil, political, economic, social and cultural human rights. Access to health care, education and basic income security is essential in lifting those below the poverty line.

Girls and women face disadvantages which cause them to be overlooked and often excluded from this model. These gender disparities must be addressed specifically. We need to empower girls and women through social development floors that recognize their specific needs. Policies need to be implemented to support girls and women who are subject to inequalities within the labour market and political arenas. It is imperative that all segments of the population are reached effectively, and efficiently so social protection policies maximize the opportunity for everyone to be included in society.

Social protection contributes to and enhances the dignity and wellbeing of persons and families. When the basic needs of peoples for a place to live, nourishing food, health, education and basic income are provided, this in turn develops personal potential, and contributes to the development of communities and society. We must prioritize these social protection floors and pledge to implement them in order to ensure the dignity of all persons.

To achieve social inclusion, increased effectiveness of fiscal policies is pivotal. Within developing countries, an effective and reformed taxation system can ensure that fiscal policies are focused on implementing basic social services such as healthcare, education and wage benefits in order to cater to those most disadvantaged.

Research shows that Social Protection Floors for all are financially and fiscally possible in most countries. What is required for their successful implementation is the political will of developing countries to allocate resources within the budget. As outlined in the 2018 Financing the End of Extreme Poverty report, developed countries receive ten time more aid per person than those in less developed countries. Donor states need to commit to redistributing their aid and funding, targeting it to those countries that need it most so that no one is left behind.

To ensure all member states have the resources to implement ILO Recommendation 202, reform of the current financial system is critical. The present system is is exacerbating inequalities and threatening social inclusion.

Accountability and transparency are essential so that social protection strategies can function efficiently, and corruption is avoided. This will ensure strong and more involved state-society relationships develop, allowing citizens to be involved and voice specific social issues that forcing them below the poverty margin and excluded from social protection and society.

We recommend the following strategies:

- That the UN and Member States intensify efforts to reduce inequalities and eliminate extreme poverty
- Implement national floors of social protection in line with ILO R.202 and commit to allocating the necessary resources in national budgets.
- Reform the present financial architecture to reduce inequalities and put the dignity and life of people before corporate benefits.
- Ensure transparency and accountability in the implementation of social protection and the resources committed.

We foresee that these strategies would be efficient and effective in tackling the growing inequalities of social inclusion within and among countries while working towards overcoming extreme poverty. We must work together at a global level strategically and intelligently to strive for universal justice so that social inclusion barriers are eliminated from society and equality is achieved for all.

United Nations E/CN.5/2019/NGO/21

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
1 November 2018

Original: English

Commission for Social Development
Fifty-seventh session
11–21 February 2019
Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly: priority theme: Addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through fiscal, wage and social protection policies

Statement submitted by VAAGDHARA, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

18-18372 (E) 121118

Please recycle

Statement

Inequality in India

According to the latest data from Credit Suisse and Oxfam, the richest 10% of Indians own 80% of the country's wealth. At the other end, the poorer half jostles for a mere 4.1% of national wealth. Even more strikingly, during the period of India's rapid economic growth, the rich have been the greatest beneficiaries. Between 2000 and 2016, the share of India's richest 1% increased from 36.8% over 50%. This trend is going in the upward direction, which means rich are getting richer at a much faster rate than the poor. Despite being among the richest countries in the world, India has attracted negative attention in recent years as the second most unequal country in the world after Russia, as per the Credit Suisse's Global Wealth Report, 2016.

Inequality in India is multi-dimensional: There are inequalities in wealth, income and consumption, as well as structural inequalities of opportunity, region and social groups. The rising income inequality has developmental implications — leading to a slower poverty reduction and undermining the sustainability of economic growth. Inequality in India is not only visible but is also on the rising trend. However, the trend of rising inequality has received far less attention in the Indian context, despite a clear rising trend since 1991. The growing income inequality in India has negatively impacted poor citizens' access to education and healthcare. It makes it difficult for the poor to climb up the economic ladder and increases their risk of being victims to poverty trap. People living at the bottom 10% are characterized by low wages; long working hours; lack of basic services such as first aid, drinking water and sanitation. The billionaire boom is not a sign of a thriving economy but a symptom of a failing economic system. Those working hard, growing food for the country, building infrastructure, working in factories are struggling to fund their child's education, buy medicines for family members and manage two meals a day. The growing divide undermines democracy and promotes corruption and cronyism.

Nature and Causes of Inequality

It would be biased to describe India's Inequality in just financial terms while it has many more aspects to be looked upon. For example, there is a stark difference in the quality of education in private versus government schools and rural versus urban schools. While only 31% children in urban India attend Government schools at Primary level, 72% of their rural counterparts have no option but to attend Government schools because of their parents' inability to pay for the fee. Given that the poor quality of education in government schools — which account for 80% of the total school infrastructure in the country — is an undeniable fact, graduates of these schools are victims of a systemic failure and are set to fail the race with children in private schools. Inequalities creep in right there, right in the very beginning.

Similarly, when it comes to the access to public health services, those with the greatest need for health care — the poor — have the greatest difficulty in accessing timely and quality health care. Out of pocket health expenditures are believed to cause pushing around 39 million Indians into poverty each year (NCBI, USA), further accentuating the financial — and as a result of it other social — inequalities in the country.

Inequalities in terms of gender are fierce too. Despite educational gains, the labor force participation rate for women in India (% of female population ages 15+) in 2017 was a mere 27.21% as opposed to 78.84% for men (modeled ILO estimates). Gender-based violence remains unacceptably high and there are scores of other aspects of life where women are in a disadvantaged situation simply because of their being 'Women'.

In conclusion, it won't be unfair to say that inequalities in opportunities right from one's childhood set the floor for much intense and articulated wide-scale and multi-faceted inequalities later in their lives. Thus, the country is in a sort of vicious cycle of 'inequalities' where poor and already disadvantaged continue to find it difficult to break this cycle.

Addressing inequalities

One has to acknowledge that the government has taken several landmark steps to promote equality in India. But still there is a long way to go to achieve equity. The recent schemes launch by the government in order to address inequality can be seen through these examples. For example, around 22 crore people were linked to the mainstream financial system by opening bank accounts under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojna, which is critical to improving their access to credit and ensuring transparency in delivering direct cash transfers.

Similarly, the recent announcement of a flagship National Health Protection Scheme under which Rs 5 lakh cover will be provided a year to 10 crore poor and vulnerable families in the country. This scheme is one of the world's largest government funded healthcare programme and is hopeful to take health care protection to a new aspiration level in India.

Therefore, the government should focus its efforts to achieve equity while addressing the inequality in the country. The continued rise of economic inequality in India — and around the world — is not inevitable. It is the result of policy choices. Governments can reduce inequality by rejecting market fundamentalism, opposing the special interests of powerful elites, and changing the rules and systems that have led to where we are today. They need to implement reforms that redistribute money and power and level the playing field. Following are some of the areas which, if considered could boost equality:

- The government should promote Farming practices that are eco-friendly, and sustainable in nature, acknowledge the traditional knowledge and wisdom, aim at curbing/totally ceasing the use of chemical fertilizers, and promote soil conservation.
- Agriculture holds the key to push millions out of poverty by creating fair work opportunities. The agriculture policies should focus on providing maximum benefits to the small and marginal farmers who are the actual producers of the food in the country and devoted their lives to the production of food. The sector can be strengthened, inter alia, by guaranteeing "Fair Support Prices" and not "Minimum Support Prices" for crops, ensuring easy credit availability for farmers and focusing on climate smart and climate resilient agriculture practices.
- There is a need to increase the labour force participation of women by creating more formalized work roles and improving the workplace conditions.
- Increased Social spending, on public services such as education, health and social protection, is also important. Evidence from more than 150 countries — rich and poor, and spanning over 30 years — shows that overall, investment in public services and social protection can tackle inequality.
- The government should promote inclusive growth by encouraging labour-intensive sectors that will create more jobs, imposing higher tax on the super-rich, implementing policies to tackle all forms of gender discrimination and sealing the "leaking wealth bucket" by taking stringent measures against tax evasion.

However, these well-intentioned policies need to cross the notorious "bureaucratic implementation hurdles" to yield results and make a dent in the large looming inequality in the country. India — along with all the other countries in the world — has committed to attaining the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, and to ending extreme poverty by that year. But unless we make an effort to first contain and then reduce the rising levels of extreme inequality, the dream of ending extreme poverty for the 300 million Indians — a quarter of the population — who live below an extremely low poverty line, will remain a pipe dream.

United Nations E/CN.5/2019/NGO/22

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
1 November 2018

Original: English

Commission for Social Development
Fifty-seventh session
11–21 February 2019
Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly
Priority Theme: Addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through fiscal, wage and social protection policies

Statement submitted by Smile Foundation, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

18-18373 (E) 071118

Please recycle

Statement

Addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through fiscal, wage and social protection policies

Background:

India ranks 130 among 189 countries in the 2017 Human Development Index (HDI) UNDP Report. India's HDI value for 2017 is 0.640, which put the country in the medium human development category, according to the Human Development Report (HDR) released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Between 1990 and 2017, India's HDI value increased from 0.427 to 0.640, an increase of nearly 50 per cent and an indicator of the country's remarkable achievement in lifting millions of people out of poverty.

About 26.8 per cent of India's HDI value is lost on account of inequalities.

This confirms that inequality remains a challenge for India as it progresses economically, though the government and various state governments have, through a variety of social protection measures, attempted to ensure that the gains of economic development are shared widely and reach the farthest first.

In India, despite considerable progress at the policy and legislative levels, women remain significantly less politically, economically and socially empowered than men.

For instance, women hold only 11.6 per cent of parliamentary seats, and only 39 per cent of adult women have reached at least a secondary level of education as compared to 64 per cent males as per UNDP 2017 report. Also, female participation in the labour market is 27.2 per cent compared to 78.8 for men.

Addressing the gender equity issues affecting the HDI of India Government of India has taken special initiatives in launching key programmes like POSHAN Abhiyaan, Ayushman Bharat-National Health Protection Mission.

National Nutrition Mission (POSHAN Abhiyan): National Nutrition Mission was launched as an expansion of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao programme by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the International Women's Day on March 8, 2018. The main objectives of this scheme are to attain proper nutritional status among children from 0–6 years, adolescent girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers in a timely manner; reduce stunting, under-nutrition, and anaemia among young children, women, and adolescent girls; and lowering low birth weight by at least 2% per annum.

POSHAN Abhiyaan is a multi-ministerial convergence mission with the vision to ensure attainment of malnutrition free India by 2022. The objective of POSHAN Abhiyaan to reduce stunting in identified Districts of India with the highest malnutrition burden by improving utilization of key Anganwadi Services and improving the quality of Anganwadi Services delivery. Its aim to ensure holistic development and adequate nutrition for pregnant women, mothers and children.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) is implementing POSHAN Abhiyaan in 315 Districts in first year, 235 Districts in second year and remaining districts will be covered in the third year. There are a number of schemes directly/indirectly affecting the nutritional status of children (0–6 year's age) and pregnant women and lactating mothers. In spite of these, level of malnutrition and related problems in the country is high. There is no dearth of schemes but lack of creating synergy and linking the schemes with each other to achieve common goal. POSHAN Abhiyaan through robust convergence mechanism and other components would strive to create the synergy.

To complement Government initiatives, Smile Foundation is also contributing to efforts to overcome nutrition and health inequities. Under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), Smile Foundation has started special projects focusing on addressing the health and nutritional needs of vulnerable tribal groups, covering children, adolescents and women in the society.

Smile Foundation: Making a Difference

Smile Foundation was set up in the year 2002 with mission to make a difference in the lives of the underprivileged. Smile Foundation works as a catalyst in bringing change in the lives of poor children, youth and women, through life-cycle approach with focus on SDGs pertaining to poverty and hunger, education, empower women, child and maternal mortality, health.

Smile Foundation has four flagship programs, namely Mission Education, Smile on Wheels (SoWs), SWABHIMAAN and Smile Twin e-Learning Program (STeP). Further, in the year 2017 it was felt that there are few themes which need special focus in the community and need to be addressed specifically. Hence special nutrition projects are included in the program to address the needs of the tribal and vulnerable groups. Projects on theme such as early childhood development, social inclusion of marginalized groups, livelihood opportunities etc. are conceptualized and implemented in selected districts identified by Government of India.

Smile Foundation with their flagship programs are working towards addressing the existing inequities in the communities. Currently, Smile Foundation through its work is directly benefitting over 350,000 children and their families through more than 175 welfare projects on education, healthcare, nutrition, livelihood and womens' empowerment, in more than 750 remote villages and slums across 25 states of India.

Smile believes that 'Life Cycle Approach' holds the key to address the ecosystem of education, healthcare, poverty, population control, unemployment, social justice or human rights etc. Smile Foundation empowers the underprivileged by helping them realize their potential, to emerge as productive assets, and sets the foundation for nation building.

Project Briefs

Smile Foundation is implementing projects in two States, namely Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh, to address social inclusion and financial & nutrition inequities in the community by targeting children (6months-10 years), adolescent girls (14–19 years), pregnant women and lactating women. Under the projects Smile is working to reduce anemia and improve nutritional status of the target beneficiaries through formal and informal community trainings, meetings and health system strengthening. The projects talk about raising awareness on risk perception of iron deficiency and other nutrients, along with the importance of a balanced diet. Also, the project implementation aims on creating livelihood opportunities for the adolescent girls.

The projects follow a three-pronged strategy for meeting their objectives. The first strategy focuses on awareness and knowledge building among adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and caregivers. This aims to improve the nutrition and reduce iron deficiency by bringing a behaviour change. The second strategy works on provision and promotion of nutrition supplements available locally. It is being done by building capacity of the beneficiaries in preparing nutritious recipes (scientifically proven) along with its free distribution for improving health and nutrition status. It also works on promoting intake of micronutrient supplements provided by the Government of India through programs like Iron Folic Acid, Calcium etc. The third strategy focuses on providing vocational training to adolescent girls for livelihood opportunities through local partnership with different institutions.

Further to these themes, the projects also touch on a few cross-cutting areas like promotion of Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), menstrual health hygiene, WASH and life skills, To make the project meaningful and successful Smile always believes in partnering with Government. Hence strengthening the government system is also part of the project. Capacity building of frontline workers is also one of the component.

As a way forward through the structured, scientific and holistic 'Life Cycle Approach', Smile is contributing to helping the underprivileged to fight the menace of poverty and address prevailing social inequities in the community affecting human development. It aims to empower them through power of education, health and employability and considering all these factors in mind the interventions is designed in a manner so that social inequity can also be addressed.

To address the challenges of project partnering with key players is critical for sustainable development and thus Smile through its projects has been successfully coordinating with existing Government structures and with funding partners in joining the mission of bringing change.

In summary, Smile's innovative interventions strive to bring hope/change in the lives of marginalized underprivileged women, children and adolescents and present an implementation model to scale-up support for existing Government initiatives. Further, there is a long way to go in improving the social conditions of the targeted and make Smile's contribution in addressing social inclusion, inequities on a large scale.

18-18373

United Nations E/CN.5/2019/NGO/23

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
1 November 2018

Original: English

Commission for Social Development
Fifty-seventh session
11–21 February 2019
Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly
Priority Theme: Addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through fiscal, wage and social protection policies

Statement submitted by Associação Brasileira dos Organizadores de Festivais de Folclore e Artes Populares, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

18-18375 (E) 081118

Please recycle

Statement

The Social Inclusion of People with Disabilities: Good Practices, in Practice

Even after the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Brazil moves slowly towards the inclusion of disabled individuals in the society, be it in the labor market, access to education or daily urban furniture. The Federal Law 10,098 of 2000, establishes basic criteria and the promotion to the accessibility of people with disabilities or reduced mobility, but nowadays the barriers still exist, and there are no support measures designed as required by law.

Considering both long-term and short-term measures, the Brazilian Association of Folklore and Arts Festival Organizers, a non-profit non-governmental organization — which since 2017 participates as an advisory member of The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of United Nations (UN) -has been working on some fundamental issues related to social and economic development emphasizing on social inclusion. One of these concerns a project to include the disabled people in the school environment.

In partnership with the Disability Rights Commission of the Brazilian Bar Association of the city of Santos, State of São Paulo, the Association decided to make a diagnosis of this issue by visiting private school units in that municipality to verify compliance with the federal law afore mentioned.

In order to carry out the study, other partnerships have been established, such as to the Local Public Prosecutor's Office — since this is the body responsible for defending democracy and unavailable rights — and to the Municipal Council for People with Disabilities, an independent body.

The project is part of a larger plan entitled "Good Practices, in Practice" which aims to establish, disclose and disseminate positive examples that come with social inclusion at its most diverse levels. Regarding this planning, the project has the following phases:

1st Phase of the Works: Meeting

In 2017, the Commission of Rights of the People with Disability of the OAB of Santos decided to give effect to the Convention of New York and the Brazilian Law of Inclusion 13,146 / 2016). There were developed actions such as lectures with lawyers, doctors and people with disabilities to help raise awareness and promote the equality of those who have some disability or reduced mobility.

Realizing that the new law was being little discussed, even in the Judiciary, it was decided to invite several authorities to an informal discussion. Judges, prosecutors, and lawyers attended to activities where they discussed the possibility of visiting schools to verify compliance with the law on social inclusion and getting people aware of such need.

Phase 2: Application of Questionnaires

After several meetings, it was concluded that it was necessary to send a questionnaire to the city's schools to verify compliance with the law and also to check if children and adolescents were, in fact, being included in that environment. The point was to find out whether enrollments were denied or whether the students were really being included in the environment because being enrolled does not mean that the student would indeed be included in the learning process properly.

It was necessary to know the real needs of the disabled person to understand the barriers encountered so that it could be eliminated. What was known, informally, was

that some enrollments were denied and that many students with disabilities continue to face difficulties in their learning due to the lack of an inclusive policy and were, therefore, discriminated there inside. We sent out 70 questionnaires to virtually every private school in the city.

Phase 3: Analysis of responses

Initially, some schools did not respond to the questionnaire, being necessary the material referral. Some units indicated that there were no students with disabilities enrolled, which surprised everyone. According to the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE), almost 25% of Brazilians have some disability.

Many institutions were mistaken in these answers, especially in the questions that involved the specialized educational service, the individualized educational plan, and the school support professional (that in the city of Santos was named Teacher Mediator).

The institutions were not aware of the obligation of this professional or even the meaning of that. All schools said they did not charge additional fees for students with disabilities or their caretakers, although informal complaints reached the committee. This concern existed, as such conduct characterizes crime.

Despite this, some institutions have said they allow parents to choose professionals outside the school framework, without, however, charging any additional value. Although the legislation does not make it clear, this would be a way to circumvent the law and get parents to argue with such expenses.

4th Phase: Visits to schools

Facing such difficulties, some members decided to verify the answers on the spot and to take advantage of it to guide the school administrators about the rights, the necessary adaptations, the humanized fulfillment of these duties, and of course, the responsibilities and possible punishments.

Composition

The visits had the following composition:

MEETING of approach with the board, school and legal staff with questions regarding the questionnaire;

CLARIFICATION of questions that may not have been understood;

AUDITING in the school's facilities and necessary notes of adjustments to be made;

OFFERING aid regarding the application of Federal Law 10,098 and how it can be applied in the institution to assure the rights of students with disabilities, according to the observance of the spatial and budgetary reality of each school;

REQUEST for a post-visit report based on the same questions, to update committee-guided changes and to set deadlines for implementation by schools.

Phase 5: Project Disclosure

There was a disclosure about the project in the media so that parents and students with disabilities who may wish to contribute with any information or even report abuse. Due to that, it was available a channel of contact, however, was rarely sought by the parents. In the link below, it is possible to check one of this news on the most significant news portal in the country:

United Nations E/CN.5/2019/NGO/24

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
1 November 2018

Original: English

Commission for Social Development
Fifty-seventh session
11–21 February 2019
Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly: priority theme: Addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through fiscal, wage and social protection policies

Statement submitted by Baha'i International Community, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

18-18376 (E) 121118

Please recycle

Statement

Billions Arising:
Releasing the Universal Capacity for Transformative Social Change

Thoughtful actors the world over are striving to construct social and economic arrangements that reflect the reality that "all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights." In this light, the fiscal, wage, and social protection measures being considered by the Commission for Social Development can be understood as incremental means of fostering vibrant communities in which members from all backgrounds are both contributing to and benefitting from the common good. The current global order often encourages self-interest at the expense of the general welfare, venerates extreme accumulations of wealth, and pursues economic gain without regard for the natural environment. At the heart of the work of the Commission, therefore, is the search for means by which governments can bend economic forces toward the straight path of justice and opportunity, regardless of any person's place of birth or social circumstances.

To recognize the dignity of some seven billion individuals is to acknowledge a human reality that is truly universal. At the level of principle, there is widespread agreement that humanity constitutes a single people, albeit infinitely diverse in language, history, and cultural expression. Consciousness of this oneness of humankind is, in many ways, the beating heart of the United Nations system itself. Yet social upheaval based in assumptions of difference is apparent on all sides. Arrangements that were designed to support an increasingly interdependent world are being questioned and, in some cases, abandoned altogether. Unforgiving conceptions of otherness are sweeping populations across the globe and fracturing societies. Social consensus around basic norms is breaking down by the day, as much between coworkers and neighbors as nations and economic blocs.

A vision of the future that unites growing numbers into common cause will be key to addressing structural challenges such as these. Equally important will be the ability to translate that vision into practical realities. Economic arrangements that reduce extremes of wealth and poverty and foster social cohesion will be critical in this regard. At one level, the economic policies under consideration at the Commission have the potential to define a minimum standard below which no individual should be allowed to fall. Such standards seek to ensure that misfortune does not translate into humiliation and setbacks do not compound into calamity. But such policies can also help establish an environment in which capacity is built, in ever-increasing numbers, to contribute to the construction of a better world.

The role of institutions of governance

How might Member States use policy tools to bring about conditions worthy of the highest aspirations of their people? In practice, measures designed to foster social development often assume elements of the donor/recipient relationship, with their attendant pitfalls of paternalism and superiority, from one perspective, and dependency and disempowerment, from another. If these are to be avoided, new patterns of relationship will be needed between local communities, individual citizens, and social institutions. Such systems of relationships would both foster and draw from the widespread involvement of a population in thoughtful consultation on their shared future and meaningful decision-making on ways that it might be brought about. In villages and cities, neighborhoods and in the home, the process thus set in motion would seek to draw on the talents and perspectives of the fullest range of the human family. The role of government would come to focus on enabling and empowering, rather than simply providing and funding. And helping to unlock the

transformative power of local communities and individuals would become a defining objective for agencies at all levels.

At stake in this perspective is not just a set of policies, but rather an ongoing process concerned with expanding the bounds of agency and prosperity, both collective and individual.

The building of capacity in local communities, on the one hand, and the government's discharge of its rightful duties, on the other, can sometimes be placed in opposition to one another. But this duality ultimately proves false, for some of the most notable instances of rapid progress have sprung from the convergence of enlightened policy and empowered populations. Communities flourish as they develop the capacities - intellectual, social, technical, and moral - to make informed decisions about how their agency will be exercised in ways that both contribute to and are enhanced by state services. For its part, the government's objective of broad-based social advancement is best served when local populations have the capability and volition to resolve problems on their own. In this light, social and economic policies become vital means for the state to enhance the partnership between itself and the communities it supports and serves.

What this looks like in practice will vary considerably by context. But many insights will be universal, and the UN is uniquely positioned to facilitate processes of learning at the global level. Means at its disposal include convening spaces devoted to genuine exploration, aggregating experience, and identifying emerging trends and patterns - all free from self-congratulation and promotion. It is well-suited, for example, to help deepen understanding of the process of effective policy-making, rather than the mere search for existing policies to be imitated. Over time, efforts in this direction could provide invaluable insight into the means by which effective policies are generated and implemented - the types of decision-making used to build ownership and commitment, for example, or the types of interaction used to foster close collaboration between actors at different levels.

The UN also has a vital role to play in advancing key areas of learning. How, for example, can the stigma sometimes faced by individuals who rely on social protection programs be reduced? Similarly, under what conditions do various fiscal, wage, and social protection policies contribute to truly cohesive and inclusive societies, versus simply feeding into a collection of well-served but disconnected subpopulations?

Billions of protagonists

Few would disagree that the present moment is one of significant disruption. But the discerning eye can see signs of integration as well as disintegration in the changes accelerating on every side. This suggests a worldwide process of transition and transformation rather than one simply of decay. Patterns of association that have outlived their usefulness are falling away, making room for new forms of collaboration and cooperation. And the space thus created provides a valuable opportunity to explore social and economic arrangements that are suited to humanity's aspirations for the future and characterized only by that which is most beneficial from its past.

Global challenges will ultimately require global solutions. Addressing inequality, social fragmentation, and similar ills calls for a notable expansion of consciousness and identity. Also needed will be universal systems that cannot be undermined by picking and choosing between the current patchwork of independent national policies. In taking up this work, one area of ongoing learning must be how fiscal, wage, and social policies can be implemented in ways that recognize the capacity of all populations to contribute to the advancement of humanity. How can

global actors go about their work in ways that recognize around them a world filled with billions of protagonists of constructive change? How, in practical terms, will efforts under such a paradigm differ from those undertaken when the generality of humanity was seen primarily through the lens of deprivation and need?

Experience has shown that building societies of equality and inclusion will require stubborn obstacles to be confronted head-on. Formidable indeed are challenges such as the extreme concentration of wealth in the hands of a few; the culture of corruption that often afflicts the wealthy and the powerful but influences the daily choices of the masses as well; the long-standing forms of prejudice that are boldly reasserting themselves not only in the realm of discourse but also in the formulation of policy and law. Yet experience has also shown the ability of virtually any population to refashion society when inspired by a shared vision of the future and committed to a common course of action. These are dynamics that Member States, as well as UN agencies and civil society organizations can foster in very practical and specific ways - among them the policies being considered by the Commission this year. Let all of us, then, find our role in unlocking the vast potential of an increasingly united and purposeful humanity.

United Nations E/CN.5/2019/NGO/25

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
1 November 2018

Original: English

Commission for Social Development
Fifty-seventh session
11–21 February 2019
Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly: priority theme: Addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through fiscal, wage and social protection policies

Statement submitted by Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation, Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary — Loreto Generalate, Institute of Inter Balkan Relations, Kosmos Associates, Inc., Loretto Community (Sisters of Loretto), Society of Catholic Medical Missionaries, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

18-18377 (E) 091118

Please recycle

Statement

Global Citizenship as a Tool for Uniting in the Achieving Inclusion and Equality through Equitable Wages, Fiscal Policies and Social Protections

We live in a global society. That reality has the potential to make us more united, more inclusive, and more equal. And yet, our global society has in some instances created new inequities while it enhances old ones. As noted in the World Programme of Action for Youth, "benefits are very unevenly shared, while the costs are unevenly distributed" (p.44). For this reason, the international community unites in confronting inequalities through inclusive social protections that will bring about a more just and equitable world. And in the face of this goal, the question arises of "how"? *How* do we even begin to bring about a world wherein all are included, and all have equal access to a secure life?

The concept of Global Citizenship arose from the realization of the interconnectedness and interdependence of humanity within the smallest communities and across the most distant borders. Global Citizenship is a pathway not a passport. It demands we walk together in cooperation, partnership, equality, and peace. It places us on the common ground of our common humanity and its interdependence on the environment we must respect. And it is a pathway toward the core values of these United Nations: peace and security, justice, equality, human dignity, and environmental sustainability.

Global Citizenship education is now a target within Sustainable Development Goal 4. UNESCO states that "The primary aim of Global Citizenship Education is nurturing respect for all, building a sense of belonging to a common humanity and helping learners become responsible and active global citizens." Furthermore, UNESCO calls for Global Citizenship Education to be used as a tool for forging, "more just, peaceful, tolerant and inclusive societies."

Is not the aim of CSoCD to bring about that more just, that more peaceful, that more tolerant and inclusive society?

And so, we too need a tool. Therefore, we submit Global Citizenship as this tool for uniting and succeeding in the goal of resolving inequalities, and we call upon those joined by the aims of CSoCD, as they set out on this path, to reach for the Global Citizenship tools delineated here forward as they strive to bring about inclusive social protections.

Interconnectedness — Four-billion people, 55% of the humanity that make up our global society, are without social protections (ILO, 2017, *World Social Protection Report*). That separation created by uneven access to the right to security of being affects all. The poverty of our brothers and sisters impacts the wealth and wellbeing of our families. This is not "their" problem, it is "our" failure. We are, as Martin Luther King reminded us, "caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny." And so, the core value of Justice remains unmet in our lives until we rectify this stratification.

Calls for social protections demand governments meet "the basic needs of all." But what motivates those who "have" to set aside resources for the insurance of a dignified life for those who have not? When we see our role as global citizens, we find this will in the belief that we are all interconnected — what affects one, affects me, and affects all.

Collaboration and Cooperation — Through the tool of Global Citizenship, we collaborate and cooperate instead of competing. We find strength in coming together, in gathering wisdom across sectors, in harnessing the resources found when we work

multilaterally. We *Co-Operate*, working side by side toward a common goal. It will take this willingness to give and take, to pull together our resources, to seek mutual good in order to create the fiscal and social systems necessary for the security of all.

Equality — Global Citizenship places equality at the center of policy and action. As one humanity, we all have an equally valuable role in our shared society. Women and men, old and young, persons of all races, religions, and identities — from a Global Citizenship lens we stand equal with each other and equally stand up for one another. Policies that ensure access to equitable livelihoods, an equal place at all levels of professional careers, and fiscal empowerment for all play a significant role in the achieving this equality. Global Citizenship is, moreover, a rights-based approach to conceptualizing and implementing social protections.

For us to uphold equality as a value, we must ensure access to a secure livelihood for all, and we must put in place a solid floor of social security on which those who need support can stand. This is a human right as noted in the Declaration of Human Rights "Everyone who works has the right to just and favourable remuneration ensuring … an existence worthy of human dignity, and supplemented, if necessary, by other means of social protection" (1948, Article 23.3).

Human Dignity — Global Citizenship is a commitment to fostering and defending human dignity. In many of the documents under review during this CSoCD as well as UN statements and proposals coming out of alignments such as the African Union, social protection and inclusion are often paired with idea of empowerment of humanity, human rights, and the dignity of all.

Plan of Action on Ageing, Article 6: "When ageing is embraced as an achievement, the reliance on human skills, experiences and resources of the higher age groups is naturally recognized as an asset in the growth of mature, fully integrated, humane societies."

African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights to Social Protection and Social Security: "States Parties Shall … Protect the rights of citizens to human dignity and to equal treatment in relation to social protection and social security."

ILO and UNDG: "Expanding people's access to social protection is both a way to advance human rights and a sound economic policy" (2014, Helen Clark and Guy Ryder).

Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, "The purpose of the Rules is to ensure that girls, boys, women and men with disabilities, as members of their societies, may exercise the same rights and obligations as others. .Persons with disabilities…should play an active role as partners in this process."

As these documents demonstrate, we have evolved away from past conceptions of social welfare as a stop-gap for those who are "incapable" and realized instead the *capacity* of all. To this end, committing to a base value of *human dignity* demands that social protections be mechanisms for strengthening, for empowering, and for including all persons as actors in policy, implementation, and progress.

Unity in Diversity — Unity implies all. In Unity we seek to find, to see, to hear, and to value the contribution of *all* in all of our diverse forms. From the perspective of Global Citizenship, diversity is never a hierarchy with some pushed beneath in order for others to stand on top. Diversity is a democracy of the varied ways of being and varied ways of seeing possible in our global society. We gain strength when efforts embrace not only the commonly shared ideas but also the diversity. It is in hearing both what we agree upon and what we have on our own failed to see that the

"marginalized" voices find equitable space in decisions and actions that affect all. In *Unity*, differences must be called upon in order to create a more complete "whole." From the tool of Global Citizenship, we use our diversified union in finding innovative solutions and taking action toward what is right not only for those who are already included, but also for those who have been left behind.

All who have come to the this 57th Session of the Commission for Social Development already know the importance of equitable wages, fiscal safety nets, and social protections in achieving all of the aims of the Sustainable Development Goals. All who have come individually to this session also care about rights and dignity of those left behind and see the potential for fiscal measures to help those left behind not only catch up but more importantly, contribute to our shared future. The will of those gathered at this 57th session is present. Therefore, what we call for now is a *unification* of that will, a coming together as global citizens and through true collaboration on the common ground of our shared commitment to equality and dignity for all.

United Nations E/CN.5/2019/NGO/26

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
1 November 2018

Original: English

Commission for Social Development
Fifty-seventh session
11-21 February 2019
Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly Priority Theme: Addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through fiscal, wage and social protection policies

Statement submitted by New Humanity, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

18-18378 (E) 091118

Please recycle

Statement

Benefits to Social Inclusion Derived from Italy's Fiscal Policy and Laws Governing Social Cooperatives

In 1991, Italy passed a law (381/1991) governing social cooperatives that reoriented the purpose of the cooperative from favoring the mutual benefit of the cooperatives' members to having the primary benefit of serving members of the local communities. The law states its purpose as "to pursue the general interest of the community in the human promotion and social integration of citizens". (I.381) Through legal means and financial incentives, Italy has stimulated the growth of social cooperatives. The Robert Tassano Consortium and the Foco Social Cooperative formed by members of New Humanity represent two examples of how social and fiscal policies stimulate private citizens to act for the public good and benefit people living in vulnerable situations.

Law 381/1991 defined two types of social cooperatives, Type A and Type B. Type A cooperatives can provide healthcare, elder care, and education. Type B cooperatives create employment for certain vulnerable groups: physically or mentally handicapped, psychiatric patients, drug addicts, alcoholics, youth from troubled families," and prisoners in work-release programs, all of whom must represent at least 30% of the workforce. In 2005, Italy expanded the applicability of the law to include additional fields of business activity called fields of social utility.

A 1986 survey identified 500 social cooperatives serving 35,000 people. By 1996, Italy had 3,000 active social cooperatives with 100,000 members serving 400,000 people. In 1996, social cooperatives comprised 4 percent of the broader Italian cooperative sector and provided employment to 10 percent of persons in the cooperative sector. A 2005 study reported 7,300 social cooperatives employing 244,000 members and by 2015, 12,000 social cooperatives employed approximately 300,000 workers.

Benefits

Founded in 1989, by 2016, Tassano Consortium consisted 33 cooperatives employing 700 people after having employed as many as 1,200. The community benefits from the Tassano Consortium through Tassano Cooperative's ability to create jobs for vulnerable persons to prepare them to work in private sector jobs. Workers can continue working within the consortium as long as they want. If a new job does not work out, they can always come back to work within the consortium until another opportunity arises. By providing a productive job in a protected, loving environment Tassano helps to restore self-confidence to persons who have been marginalized from society.

Another Type A organization under Italy's law 381/1991 on social entrepreneurship founded by members of New Humanity, Foco serves the immigrant community, especially asylum seekers, refugees, and unaccompanied minors, with psycho-social counseling, medical and legal guidance, professional training, linguistic support and cultural mediation, literacy training, social and professional integration and the development of an individualized socio-economic plan. They provide community planning, research on regional, national and European social issues, proposal writing, the creation of partnership networks among service providers, and project management. They comply with the principles spelled out in the United Nations charter and the spirit of the Economy of Communion project that promotes universal fraternity through the pursuit of human rights, subsidiarity, and solidarity. Under another Italian law, young people between the ages of 19 and 29 can apply for permission to work with Foco as an alternative to military service.

The Tassano Consortium and Foco entrepreneurs represent two examples of an emerging network of businesses describing themselves as part of an economy of communion. Like all the 800 businesses and organizations in this network, the entrepreneurs of the Tassano Consortium and Foco gain personal satisfaction by creating a culture of giving rather than a culture of having. "Teaching people to fish" does not necessarily teach the value of work or a work ethic. Fishing together and building relationships of reciprocity and fraternity has more lasting results. At Tassano, workers participate in the decisions and in their implementation and this helps to build a sense of family. Through servant leadership, Tassano has built an atmosphere of fraternity with the workers, and with colleagues in government, business, the community, and with the managers.

Foco's program takes a participatory and collaborative approach that actively engages the people of local host communities with the migrants helping them to develop an appreciation for each another. Families have the potential for listening, welcoming, and social interaction that improves the relational skills of all involved. Companies have the capability to transfer technical knowledge and to provide work that leads to economic autonomy for the beneficiaries who offer their knowledge and skills in return. These multidisciplinary and multi-level activities create "intercultural" value that serves as a model of cultural diversity management based on the dignity of each human person in recognition of our common humanity. The migrants progress towards full autonomy and full socio-economic inclusion.

These and other social cooperatives benefit the state by reducing the cost of providing services because social cooperatives usually can provide services at a lower cost. The success of social cooperatives often depends largely on contracts from state, regional, and local governments. This means that for social cooperatives to remain viable, they must offer services that correspond to the current and future needs of the government.

Conclusion

The entrepreneurs of the Tassano Consortium, the Foco Social Cooperative and others like them seek to build relationships of fraternity and reciprocity with all whom they meet in the course of carrying out their business. Support from government agencies following passage of the laws on social cooperatives has enhanced their ability to contribute towards a more united world for the benefit of the people in their community, particularly the most vulnerable among them. Cooperation between Italian social cooperatives and local, regional, and national governments in Italy provide a model worth considering for other countries that seek to benefit from public-private partnerships.

United Nations E/CN.5/2019/NGO/27

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
1 November 2018

Original: English

Commission for Social Development
Fifty-seventh session
11-21 February 2019
Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly Priority Theme: Addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through fiscal, wage and social protection policies

Statement submitted by International Young Professionals Foundation, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

18-18380 (E) 091118

Please recycle

Statement

This is a crucial momentum when, around the world, social disparities have become aggravated, hitting adversely the most vulnerable. Eradicating poverty within the context of the UN SDGs requires a multiplicity of strategies that have to be coherently planned and devised in order to achieve a comprehensive sustainable impact.

To effectively fight poverty, the scope of impoverishment has to be measured. Initial data about those that experience poverty, the reasons for this and the consequences have to be collected and shared among all stakeholders. Governments shall set the infrastructure for poverty data exchange at all stages of the eradication process: at the inception stage as well as at regular stages throughout the eradication process. Interim findings about progress in poverty eradication should be well communicated among governments, and throughout networks of relevant poverty stakeholders.

In accordance with new data strategies, collection has to be adjusted to make an adequate timely response to the changed needs. Data collection, analysis and exchange should be a critical process in which all involved stakeholders eagerly cooperate with each other and think out of the box to come up with solutions that pragmatically affect the lives of the poor and empower them for sustainable development. The approach should penetrate deeper, below the surface of formal, quantitative data, and also take into consideration even the non-statistical inputs of CSOs and media, as well as testimonials of victims of impoverishment. Devising a holistic measurement approach requires considering the devastating impact of impoverishment and the gratifying interim results in eradicating it. Success stories and best exemplars in eradication of poverty should be exchanged, but also case studies of failure of the eradication efforts have to be given enough space and be discussed openly and constructively.

Although governments are vested with the primary responsibility in the fight against poverty, achieving better living and social standards for all is not only the job of public state or sub-state actors. Governments should establish the conditions and facilities for a cross-sector, multi-actor dialogue and action to happen: while the governments would bring together the corporate sector and their representative organizations, CSOs, informal civil society groups, media and all stakeholders, after the initial stage there should be mechanisms for those actors to engage together in communication and cooperation even without a push from the governments. The multi-actor strategy should include clear roles for all stakeholders, procedures for checks and controls, joint decision-making and monitoring measures. It should be inclusive, widely open to all stakeholders, but also expect tangible results of their involvement in the process. Each communication or action measure in the multi-actor strategy should be accompanied by measurable indicators for its progress tracking and an opportunity to involve even more stakeholders ad hoc while the struggle against poverty has already commenced.

Fiscal restrictions of governments prevent them from efficiently addressing the issue of poverty. State taxes should not be the single source of funding poverty eradication or supporting the victims. The primary role of the governments would be to coordinate the efforts of effectively responding to needs in the society and directing the resources of all actors in the cross-sectorial approach to those that are most needy and suffering from poverty. Governments should create mechanisms for crowdsourcing, bringing together in-kind contribution by companies, CSOs, informal groups of the citizenry as well as individual citizens. It is important that the community receives help not only in the form of funding, but those crowdsourcing

campaigns should also be collecting supplies and materials of immediate need for the impoverished ones, for instance, to enable their feeding and shelter. Meeting the cultural and educational needs of the victims of poverty should be also a part of the crowdsourcing multi-stakeholder approach that would eventually empower the needy ones to take their future in their hands and plan a sustainable living in which they autonomously earn and contribute back to the community. To that respect, the government has to be an interlocutor and should not be seen by anyone as the actor to pay the bill, rather crowdsourcing efforts in poverty eradication should be coordinated with the government to achieve a sustainable impact on everyone's development.

United Nations E/CN.5/2019/NGO/28

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
1 November 2018

Original: English

Commission for Social Development
Fifty-seventh session
11-21 February 2019
Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly Priority Theme: Addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through fiscal, wage and social protection policies

Statement submitted by Board of Certified Safety Professionals, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

18-18381 (E) 091118

Please recycle

Statement

According to *Decent Work and the Sustainable Development Goals: A Guidebook on SDG Labour Market Indicators*, occupational safety and health are central to Sustainable Development Goal 8 — Decent Work and Economic Development. It also points out that working conditions are an important determining factor of overall living standards for workers and their families.

As progress is being made to create decent work for all by increasing employment opportunities for young people, it is important to recognize that youth between the ages of 15 and 24 suffer the highest rates of work-related injuries. As indicated by the International Labour Organization, lack of adequate personal protective equipment, insufficient awareness regarding safety standards and lack of access to proper training have resulted in young workers being injured at a disproportionate rate compared to any other age group in the workforce.

The International Labour Organization estimates that poor occupational safety practices cost the global economy nearly 3 trillion dollars. Additionally, when a young person sustains an injury in the workplace it can affect their future career opportunities, earnings, and overall well-being.

The International Labour Organizations' SafeYouth@Work Action Plan estimates that over 40 million young people enter the workforce each year. In many countries, youth will perform highly hazardous activities in industries like agriculture and construction. It is critical that we include basic occupational safety and health skills in the curriculum at the secondary level.

In addition to educating youth about practical safety skills in the workplace it is also important to raise awareness among youth about the safety profession. As demonstrated by several national and international occupational safety and health organizations, including the Board of Certified Safety Professionals, the safety profession provides high-demand, high-wage employment opportunities. Safety professionals are improving economic and social development by preventing harm to people, property, and the environment. As the economy grows, the need for qualified young professionals entering the safety profession becomes greater. The safety profession offers opportunities for individuals of varying levels of education and experience.

Collaboration between government, employers, young workers, and non-governmental organizations is crucial to creating occupational safety and health policies and standards to protect workers under the age of 18 in high risk industries — a key strategy for promoting decent work for youth.

18-18381

United Nations E/CN.5/2019/NGO/29

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
1 November 2018

Original: English

Commission for Social Development
Fifty-seventh session
11–21 February 2019
Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly Priority Theme: Addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through fiscal, wage and social protection policies

Statement submitted by Fundación Luz María, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

18-18383 (E) 091118

Please recycle

Statement

My name is Luz Maria Utrera, founder of Luz Maria Foundation. I'm very glad to be able to have my voice and the voice of my foundation heard through this statement. I've decided to write this statement to the Commission for Social Development for their 57th session to address the following factors that relate to the selected priority theme: inequalities and challenges to social inclusion.

As the founder of an NGO dedicated to advancing the support provided to women in domestic violence situations, I hope to contribute to the discussion on inequalities and development of social inclusion. As a woman fighting for women, I believe we've entered a time period that values open-mindedness and one prepared to take on challenges. We see this continuously in the support of women through the Time's Up and Me Too movement, voter movements created by young women, and for women by women social organizations such as The Wing. In this statement I present the need to widen the diffusion of movements aimed towards the strengthening policies that are truly utilized the best of the ability targeting equal pay and women targeted healthcare benefits, as well as ownership policies on international levels.

During the 55th and 56th sessions of the Commission for Social Development, strategies to reduce inequalities and poverty were discussed as well. As I address inequalities present in the world, I think about strategies that have been previously mentioned and keep in mind the goals I've witnessed the United Nations make for a better future. I consider the relationships between developed and developing countries and, as someone from a developing country, I've seen the dangers of poverty traps and international loans that cause more harm than good. I stand by the belief that through humanitarian support we can increase chances of people breaking out of the poverty cycle and support inclusive growth and empowerment of independence and entrepreneurship. Organizations providing educational programs dedicated to teaching roads to financial independence, women health, and childcare can further make an impact on future generations from the moment they're born.

Exclusions within societies can be found in many different ways and, as someone who works in hope of a brighter, more diverse future, I believe we communities can achieve social inclusion by integration of people with differing wages, races, religions, and sexes. One thing that's genuinely amazed me about social movements today is the active role of social inclusion that plays into events. I've participated in many marches and have seen the immense gathering of cultures and people of all different communities coming together and fighting for a collective idea they believe in. This is how I hope to see the future: a collective disregarding for the things that make us different and acknowledging the things that make every single person unique and important. Coming together to discuss and question systems in place that don't support our needs and desires, and actively working to change them.

Recently I partnered with an organization based in Argentina to raise money for a women's shelter, one of the only shelters available to women in Argentina. These women remind me every day that the system we live in is not deemed for us; for women, migrants, impoverished, and minority communities. Being able to participate in these platforms, such as the one this statement is dedicated to, makes me believe in a better future. The young women that rise up and argue the standards imposed on them every day makes me believe in a stronger future. Participating in the development of the Sustainable Development Goals and witnessing the efforts dedicated to making these goals happen makes me believe in a future that strives to constantly improve.

United Nations E/CN.5/2019/NGO/30

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
1 November 2018

Original: English

Commission for Social Development
Fifty-seventh session
11–21 February 2019
Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly
Priority Theme: Addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through fiscal, wage and social protection policies

Statement submitted by SOS Kinderdorf International, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

18-18384 (E) 081118

Please recycle

Statement

To holistically address the various inequalities in societies and the challenges to social inclusion, it is imperative that policies are designed and implemented with the aim of prioritizing the improvement of the lives of the most marginalized populations, thereby reaching the furthest behind first, in accordance with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Children are more vulnerable to the effects of poverty and exclusion in general, and children without parental care even more so. This is because children who have become separated from their families and are in some form of alternative care, do not have the support of family members or access to safety nets to alleviate the burden of inequality and social exclusion. Also, children without parental care are automatically excluded from the reach of social protection policies that for children are usually delivered through the parental structure. Therefore, targeted resources and policies are needed to ensure basic security for this vulnerable group of children.

Child-sensitive social protection is essential to make sure that children without parental care, are not left behind but rather receive the attention and social support they need.

The creation of well-functioning social protection systems is also key to prevent family separation, as they provide a cushion to strengthen families in vulnerable situations and reduce vulnerabilities to economic, social or environmental challenges. Cash transfers, provision of adequate nutrition, increasing caregivers access to employment or income generation are examples of child-sensitive child protection services that are needed in order to prevent further harm for children.

Social protection for young people in alternative care and care-leavers, who are transitioning from life in alternative care to independent adulthood, is also important. In accordance with the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children, which will mark its 10th anniversary in 2019, it is important to ensure that policies and services are instituted to improve their life chances and outcomes through appropriate preparation for leaving care as well as after-care support. Access to social, legal and health services together with appropriate financial support should be provided to young people leaving care and during after-care.

It is also crucial to ensure meaningful participation of children and young people in designing policies and programmes to ensure their opinions and ideas are reflected, and that this participation is continuous even in the assessment of social protection systems.

In order to accurately target these vulnerable child and young people, there is a need to know how many they are and where they are located. Unfortunately, sufficient data is lacking for some of the most marginalized populations who are currently not being counted, such as children without parental care - who are not in a household and therefore not included in most national household surveys. We urge Member States to endeavor to invest in mechanisms to properly identify children at risk so as to better support them and their families.

SOS Children's Villages w. uld like to remark and bring up a key, though often neglected issue in the functioning of social protection systems: the social workforce. Investing in, and adequately training social workers and care professionals is a key piece to ensure social protection reaches and protects the most marginalized children. Therefore, there should be adequate budgetary allocations to build the capacity of social workers, and efforts towards inter-sectoral training of professionals working in the provision of basic services to prevent vulnerable children and youth from falling between the cracks.

We call on Member States to pay special attention to these most vulnerable children and implement transformative policies to improve their lives and emphasize that we as civil society remain available to collaborate with you to fulfil! this goal.

United Nations E/CN.5/2019/NGO/31

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
1 November 2018

Original: English

Commission for Social Development
Fifty-seventh session
11–21 February 2019
Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly Priority Theme: Addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through fiscal, wage and social protection policies

Statement submitted by the World Organization for Early Childhood Education and the Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas (FAWCO), non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

18-18385 (E) 091118

Please recycle

Statement

Migrant and Refugee-Led Child Sensitive Social Protection Measures.

A Child Sensitive Approach.

We are witnessing in today's world an unprecedented level of human mobility. The number of international migrants worldwide has continued to grow rapidly in recent years, reaching approximately 258 million in 2017. The UNHCR estimates that in 2017, there were 68.5 million forcibly displaced people worldwide, out of which 25.4 million were refugees.

Data gaps make it difficult to get a real sense of the scale and patterns of global migration. In many cases, data are not regularly collected, and quality is often poor. These problems are many times worse when it comes to data on migrant and forcibly displaced children, given the even greater challenges of measurement. Investment in improved data collection on migration and displacement, with a specific focus on children is essential to devise better polices, track progress, monitor the impact and implementation of measures.

Implementation of social protection policies and programs is fundamental to achievement of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and to the realization of commitments made by United Nations Member States in the New York Declaration (NYD), in the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration (GCM), and in the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR).

Migrants and refugees are among the most excluded from even basic coverage by social protection instruments and schemes. According to the IOM Report on Migration and the 2030 Agenda, only an estimated 22% of migrants are covered by social protection, and only 1% of those moving between low-income countries have that right guaranteed. This dire situation currently exacerbates vulnerabilities, higher risk of poverty, exploitation and exposure to discrimination/marginalization, which is especially grave for children under 18, who represent a large part of people on the move.

Social protection, a core human right under international law, has increasingly been considered as an effective policy-level intervention for reducing vulnerability and extreme poverty, and for contributing to the development and structural transformation of a society.

In their capacity of providing responsive long-term systems, social protection programs, particularly in a migration context, can help to reduce poverty, inequality and deprivation, as well as stimulate human development, social peace and resilience. Social protection can play an important role in managing migration flows, stabilizing societies and encouraging economic development. These promising functions have, however, received surprisingly little attention from governments, academia or practitioners as strategies for reducing push factors for migration.

A well-established system of social protection in crisis contexts and in transit countries can reduce vulnerabilities and minimize risks, thereby building resilience in individuals and communities.

In countries of destination, facilitated access to social protection and scaling up from previously existing social protection systems is imperative for an effective response; migrants' regulatory status is commonly a crucial factor. Especially for those who migrate irregularly, protections may not exist and, even when they do, the fear of being expelled may inhibit access to governmental programs of social protection, engendering increased vulnerability. Other material barriers for migrants' access to social protection can be lack of documents attesting birth registration,

residency, and legal identity, language, informational gaps, discrimination, cultural differences among others.

Particularly affected by the lack of social protection are the migrants living in countries in crisis. They are disproportionally affected by the shocks of migration, to be in a country in crisis and to be excluded by social protection.

Therefore, there is an evident need for migrant-sensitive strategies with a child sensitive approach. To ensure effectiveness, predictability and a secure transition to a medium to long-term development strategy, it is crucial that governments, in collaboration with multi-stakeholder partners, find creative and contextually adaptable ways in building national social protection systems that are crisis responsive and migration sensitive.

It is important to note that establishing a transformative social protection agenda — that is, one that not only goes beyond protecting people against the risks associated with being poor, but also addresses the structural causes of poverty — requires a cooperative framework and a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach.

In this regard, recently, the role of refugee-led organizations (RLO) in promoting social protection activities is becoming more and more relevant in providing services such as birth registration, food, shelter, education and health care as well as advocacy.

This new strategy remains inadequately explored by academics, policymakers and practitioners.

Studies have shown positive results in direct service delivery that is culturally appropriate and delivered in the native language of the refugees and migrants with whom they share similar migration experiences, culture, traditions and values. Mitigation of trauma is more effective when the provider speaks the same language and understands the traumatic experience. Refugees can help fill the education gap by teaching children in their native language and curriculum. Women are empowered by working and being able to provide and protect their children.

Interesting examples of RLO initiatives are in Uganda and Kenya. In Nairobi, for example, refugee-led social businesses train both refugees and locals in arts and tailoring and reinvest profits from sales of their products into projects to support vulnerable children from both local and refugee communities with school fees.

In Kampala, RLO programs provide training for young people, with the aim of equipping them with the skills to support themselves and build a better future.

Social protection must begin with the youngest children 0–5 years old. An undesirable gap exists between traditional policies in social protection and the need to make specific provisions for early childhood, particularly for migrant and refugee children.

For the youngest refugee children, the developmental and psychological consequences of forced displacement can be devastating because the first five years of life play a vital role in the formation of intelligence, personality and social behaviour as well as in the capacity for later participation and productivity in their communities, workplaces and societies. The youngest refugee children require special attention, but they are commonly forgotten. Failure to intervene on their behalf will undoubtedly create negative consequences for the global community.

Early Childhood Development (ECD) alleviates childhood trauma, toxic stress and deprivation, crating the human and social capital needed for development and contributes to peace-building. It helps break the cycles of intergenerational transmission of economic and education poverty.

For example, IACTivism — Little Ripples in East Chad — is a sustainable, culturally relevant refugee-led Early Childhood Education program that overcomes barriers of access to education and integrates the community by hosting the preschool in the homes of refugees. Refugees are professionally trained in children's socio-emotional and cognitive development. They take ownership, lead the program and then train others.

The program is being replicated in another refugee context.

Recommendations:

1) Collect and share disaggregated data on migrants and refugees; facilitate refugee children's birth registration and move towards greater portability of documents, so that they may be accounted for and be able to access services including education and health care.

2) Recognize the critical role of social protection policy to the realization of the SDGs.

3) Promote a transformative social protection agenda that is crisis responsive and migration sensitive.

4) Fill the gap between traditional social protection policy and ECD.

5) Promote ECD in a migration context, as a transformative tool to build a cohesive and peaceful society.

United Nations E/CN.5/2019/NGO/32

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
1 November 2018

Original: English

Commission for Social Development
Fifty-seventh session
11–21 February 2019
Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly Priority Theme: Addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through fiscal, wage and social protection policies

Statement submitted by Youth Alliance for Leadership and Development in Africa, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

18-18386 (E) 091118

Please recycle

Statement

With regard to the 57th Session of the Commission for Social Development, the Youth Alliance for Leadership and Development in Africa would like to draw specific attention to the issues faced by African youth in the digital age.

African youth continue to face unemployment, underdevelopment, skills mismatch in labour markets, insufficient education and limited access to capital. These deficits imply that a greater proportion of young Africans do not have the opportunities needed to fully develop their potential and contribute to the realization of the declared vision and mission of African nations.

The Youth Alliance for Leadership and Development in Africa performed surveys among its members (several thousands of students from branch universities on the African continent and abroad as well as young professionals) to gauge youth opinion on the state of inclusion, empowerment and satisfaction of Africa's economy, polity and society, and our results confirmed that a majority of youth and young adults do not have the opportunity to fulfil their potential and participate in the local, national and regional strata of African development. We discovered that a) only 26.9% (roughly one-fourth) of students graduating have employment fully secured, b) of those employed, only 46.2% believe school prepared them for their current work, c) of those unemployed, 57.1% have been looking for a job for more than a year and 7.1% for more than 4 years, and d) of those self-employed, 56.5% started their businesses from funding obtained from friends and family, 8.7% from personal savings and 0% from funding sponsored by government or banks.

African nations need deliberate efforts to accelerate social development that gives high priority to youth empowerment and education. Challenges faced by African youth transcend national borders. Since 2004, the Youth Alliance for Leadership and Development in Africa has sought to provide young people with resources, experience, and life-long skills that contribute to their development and inspire them to make positive change in Africa. Policy makers must implement devices that provide similar solutions. This includes promoting innovative curriculum that promotes critical thinking skills that help in student socio-political development, interpersonal and communication skills, a strong sense of agency, and civic commitment.

To facilitate these aims, the Youth Alliance for Leadership and Development in Africa is holding its biennial conference "i-Boot Camp" in Rabat, Morocco to help young Africans cultivate the skills and knowledge needed to embrace the opportunity offered by the process of integration through cultural exchange, the generation of ideas, and mentorship.

i-Boot Camp will be held from 24th–28th October 2018 and will engage and empower 350 youth to build viable and sustainable digitally savvy enterprises across African borders in a high intensity and fast-paced environment, thereby enhancing rapid digitization from the bottom-up. The i-Boot Camp will incorporate YALDA's previous i-Boot Camp structures encompassing four key areas: industry specific panel discussions; IDEA labs; workshops focused on refining ideas and refining skills, and site visits to youth-led projects and businesses across Morocco.

As communication is a very vital part of rapid digitization, we want to ensure that all brilliant ideas from all over the continent are shared and that language is not an impediment. All documents and summary presentations will be available in multiple languages. Additionally, YALDA will continue to offer e-participation that we recently offered at the YALDA 2016 i-Boot Camp that was held in Cameroon. This will allow delegates who are unable to travel for whatever reason the chance to

register and participate online through audio live streaming, video streaming, online communications/feedbacks including live feeds on various social media platforms such as Facebook, YouTube, MindMixers and Vimeo.

First and most importantly, the i-Boot Camp serves as a space for youth to come together to share, develop or expand tangible ideas. Starting with the site visits, young people will learn first-hand what it takes to use technology in a beneficial way and learn about the challenges young people like them have faced and how they translated these into successful initiatives. The following days of the i-Boot Camp will be filled with activities that allow the delegates to share and refine their distinctive ideas within a very short time frame on a very demanding schedule with required daily written assignments that are expected to be completed before registration for the following days activities. Additionally, the various workshops and seminars will give youth the avenues and direct them to resources to bring their ideas to fruition in their respective countries and beyond.

Delegates will be given an opportunity to then present unique ideas to industry experts for constructive feedback during the industry panel sessions, in which they will also receive further leads for more support in the idea implementation stage. The industry specific panel sessions will not only educate participants on opportunities arising from technology in various sectors but will also sensitize youth on the stakes involved when it comes to their specific industries potential that can be unleashed. Some of the best ideas/initiatives under the respective panels will be rewarded with a sponsorship package to kick-start the initiative in the community of the winner while promoting the very theme of the i-Boot Camp. Through these many sessions, delegates will have an opportunity to network with Africa's leading professionals across various sectors and build relationships with their peers from different countries. In turn, this will enable delegates to build expansive knowledge sharing networks in order to leverage Africa's rapid digitization and position delegates for success in and beyond their home countries.

Undoubtedly, at YALDA we believe the crux of this i-Boot Camp is to enable young Africans to take advantage of the rapid digitization occurring all over the continent and ultimately, to have an Africa developed by Africans. Creating awareness is the strongest foundation for prosperity. Thus, by sharing lessons from past experiences and developing enterprises to address the technological advancements that are being made and can be made in the future, young people will be instrumental in strengthening digital development and synchronizing efforts for a technologically integrated Africa thereby contributing to the prosperity of our African continent.

United Nations E/CN.5/2019/NGO/33

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
8 November 2018

Original: English

Commission for Social Development
Fifty-seventh session
11–21 February 2019
Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly: Priority Theme: Addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through fiscal, wage and social protection policies

Statement submitted by Global NeuroCare, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

18-18918 (E) 141118

Please recycle

Statement

INTRODUCTION

Global NeuroCare, a non-profit organization holding Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council, fully supports the Fifty-Seventh Session of the Commission for Social Development ["Addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through fiscal, wage and social protection policies"] by advancing sustainable access to healthcare [A/RES/70/1 or 'Agenda' Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 3 and 3.8], and by this means promoting the implementation of appropriate social protection systems and measures for all [SDG Target 1.3], with a cross-cutting impact reducing poverty in all its forms and dimensions [SDG 1], reducing gender inequality [SDG 5.4], advancing employment [SDG 8.5], and adopting social protection policies to achieve greater equality [SDG 10.4], thereby engendering positive economic, social and political stability.

BACKGROUND

Global NeuroCare focuses on advancing sustainable access to healthcare in developing regions, a goal broadly reaffirmed by SDG 3, specifically targeted by SDG 3.8, and unconditionally endorsed in SDG 1.3 and the Agenda's Vision 7 on equitable and universal healthcare.

PURPOSE

This statement provides specific recommendations to improve healthcare access in resource limited areas as a strategy for promoting healthy lives, reducing poverty, and addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion, thereby improving all forms of social protection.

FINDINGS

Social protection is an integral part of the Agenda representing one of the poverty reduction targets [SDG 1, Target 1.3 ("Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage for the poor and the vulnerable")], and is a critical factor for achieving good health and well-being [SDG 3], promoting economic growth [SDG 8.5], ending hunger [SDG 2], achieving gender equality [SDG 5.4] and reducing inequalities [SDG 10.4].

The directive of SDG 3 ("ensure healthy lives and promote well-being at all ages") subsumes nine substantive and four secondary targets, underpinned by a goal of achieving "universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential healthcare services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all." [SDG 3.8].

Advancing SDG 3.8 is paramount because each and every social protection instrument must be predicated on improving healthcare disparities or will prove futile. The reason is simple: ill-health is a fundamental determinant of poverty, leading to diminished productivity, income loss, medical expenses and ongoing health related costs, exacerbating poverty and furthering ill-health in a mutually reinforcing cycle, with multiple interconnected, contributory and reciprocal factors including the negative impact of poverty on health through unsanitary conditions, lack of clean water, malnutrition, and limited access to basic and preventive care, leading to profound economic loss, and social, cultural and environmental decline, negating the effects of many non-health related protection policies. [E/CN.5/2018/NGO/20].

Healthcare disparities are attributable to multiple diverse factors, specific for particular regions or circumstances, affected by local values and ideologies, and most evident in developing countries, where the underlying commonality is a lack of access toealth related services resulting in excessive maternal, neonatal and childhood morbidity and mortality, ongoing high rates of infectious diseases, and untreated non-communicable diseases, all disproportionately increasing in the least developed countries, forcing millions of people into poverty every year, leading to increased vulnerability, marginalization and exclusion. [WHO 2017, Health Inequities and Their Causes; E.CN.5/2017/NGO/19; E.CN.5/2018/NGO/20]. The Agenda set specific targets to address these concerns [SDGs 3.1-3.4] and related matters [SDG 3.5-3.7, 3.9], recognizing the importance of improving healthcare disparities as the foundation for advancing broad social protection policies.

There must be considerable improvement in access to sustainable, affordable and quality healthcare in order to approach or meet these specific targets [SDG 3 et seq], achieve meaningful poverty reduction and build a foundation for comprehensive social protection policies. The remaining questions are where to start, and how to advance healthcare access in an efficient cross-cutting manner.

The Agenda specifically states "reach the furthest behind first," which means starting in the least developed nations, especially in sub-Saharan Africa where there is no social protection of any type for the vast majority of people. These regions present special challenges requiring particular attention [Agenda Paragraph 22, 23, and SDG Paragraph 56; SDG 3(d)], in order to ensure that each person receives "the highest attainable standard of health as a fundamental right." [WHO Fact Sheet No. 323, 2015].

The key question is how to improve healthcare access in a manner that will lead to increased social health protection with the ultimate goal of universal coverage. Global NeuroCare proposes that the single most effective solution is to increase the recruitment, development, training and retention of physicians and healthcare workers, a position strongly ratified our previous statements [E/2016/NGO/53; E/2017/NGO/16; E/CN.5/2017/NGO/19; E/CN.5/2018/NGO/20], which comports with the Agenda [SDG 3(c)], and is supported by WHO [Article II(o)].

Global NeuroCare reaffirms previous statements providing specific guidelines for advancing ethically congruent collaborative partnerships that are essential for capacity building while protecting inherently vulnerable populations [E/2016/NGO/53; E/CN.5/2017/NGO/19; E/2017/NGO/16], ensuring that international support leads to self-sufficient training programs while avoiding donor based protection policies that provide no substantive benefit [E/CN.5/2018/NGO/20].

However, the quality of healthcare must be improved in tandem with quantity, since poor quality obviates the benefits of increased access, wastes valuable resources, and causes actual harm, through inverse, unsafe, fragmented and misdirected care. Global NeuroCare further reaffirms previous statements providing recommendations on quality improvement which will also promote geographic expansion of services that are so desperately needed in the least developed countries. [E/CN.5/2018/NGO/20].

In summary, equitable access to essential, affordable, quality healthcare is an absolute prerequisite for implementing more comprehensive social protection policies.

RECOMMENDATIONS

On the basis of the afore-referenced background, facts, challenges and goals, Global NeuroCare calls upon the Commission for Social Development to urge Member States to:

Reiterate that the developing countries face a triple burden of ongoing communicable diseases, rapidly increasing non-communicable disorders and rising numbers of accidents and injuries;

Recognize that this burden represents a significant determinant of poverty, which impedes the effective development of comprehensive social protection policies;

Acknowledge that improving healthcare access is the foundation for poverty reduction, thereby ensuring successful implementation of other social protection strategies;

Ensure improved healthcare access by supporting the recruitment, development, training and retention of more physicians and healthcare workers in developing regions;

Follow our prior statements to establish sustainable, ethically congruent collaborative North-South partnerships to protect inherently vulnerable populations while developing local training programs for physicians and healthcare workers;

Note that these local healthcare training programs must be self-sufficient, since donor-based protection policies ultimately fail;

Focus on improving quality of care in tandem with quantity, and prioritize implementing an appropriate development agenda as highlighted in our prior statements;

Having considered the above, recognize that following Global NeuroCare's recommendations will ensure government, private sector, non-government organizations and international and local communities effectively engage in an integrated, multi-faceted, cross-sector approach to implementing sustainable social protection policies, promulgated through cooperative alliances, with a goal of attaining universal healthcare coverage including access to healthcare services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable medicines and vaccines [SDG 3.8], particularly in developing regions [SDG 3(c)], which will play a critical role in poverty reduction [SDG 1], serve to advance overall health capacity and security [SDG 3(d)], reduce maternal and childhood morbidity and mortality [SDG 3.1, 3.2], decrease communicable and non-communicable diseases [SDG 3.3, 3.4], diminish deaths and injuries from accidents [SDG 3.6], promote social protection systems [SDG 1.3] to progressively achieve greater equality [SDG 10.4], eliminate harmful practices including gender inequality [SDG 5.4], and stimulate economic growth [SDG 8.5].

United Nations E/CN.5/2019/NGO/34

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
8 November 2018

Original: English

Commission for Social Development
Fifty-seventh session
11–21 February 2019
Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly: Priority Theme: Addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through fiscal, wage and social protection policies

Statement submitted by Pirate Parties International Headquarters, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

18-18919 (E) 131118

Please recycle

Statement

Pirates are Vanguards of Social Justice

Modern political Pirates are a conglomeration of people who espouse political transparency, freedom of information, and a host of other social justice virtues. Pirate organizations from around the world banded together to form the Pirate Parties International Headquarters in 2010. Our organization espouses a democratic political environment with an open policy of inclusion and equal rights of participation. We operate with fair governance through online mediums that enable mass representation and power-sharing. All meetings and interactions are documented and available online in order to be completely transparent about how decisions were made. Our members propose innovative models for just governance that will involve everyone in society and hinder corruption. We cherish liberty and social equality, whereby all individuals in a society are provided with equal opportunities in all aspects of living. This includes minimum individual wealth to live healthy and comfortably lives by means of modest working conditions. Our views go hand in hand with the sustainable development goals for the UN 2030 agenda to improve human life throughout the planet. Global equality requires the ability of everyone to communicate freely with one another and obtain critical information from society, while protecting their own private information. We encourage the Commission for Social Development to consider the following recommendations to address inequalities of social inclusion through policies that will foster internet freedom and expand participation of a wider array of people in similar multinational online projects.

We Diminish Technology Divide and Cherish Technology Unite

While technology advances in recent decades allow more people access to wireless communication devices, most people still lack access to hardware with free internet access, which includes infrastructure and basic communication devices. Impoverished people also require technology that will serve their basic needs as an everyday tool and as emergency aid. Every person deserves free access to communication and information that does not compromise their privacy and freedom. Communication is a key towards improving economies, healthcare systems, promoting social inclusion, and eradicating poverty. Information technologies transform how economies function. Pirates are working to create direct democracy tools and forums, which will expand the ability of everyone to participate in decision-making and to use internet resources for their benefit. We require further interventions to provide hardware (phones, tablets, and computers) and unmonitored internet connections to those with limited financial resources. Interventions could take the form of subsidized refurbished hardware and grants for training activities to motivate people to participate in online forums which will improve freedom of speech and democracy as a whole. Pirates work to develop websites and software for direct democracy that will enhance the power of ordinary people. We request additional assistance to enable more people to utilize these tools and overcome path dependency. On a global scale, our greatest challenge is motivating traditional communities to take advantage of modern, technological resources.

We Support Online Grassroots Social Justice Campaigns

Since our inception, Pirates have collaborated on a number of whistleblowing campaigns to prevent copyright expansion, invasion of privacy, and threats to democracy. We conduct social media campaigns, routine bi-weekly online meetings, annual General Assemblies, and help organize ongoing conferences: Think Twice conferences and Pirate Security conferences. Those meetings bring together activists who are volunteering on social justice campaigns, assist them to share ideas and boost

their audience. Most of our members are young idealistic people, who feel very strongly about public service, contribute their own funds and volunteer to support the global community. Our philanthropic efforts have limited effects compared to large corporations, special interest groups, and governments who do not agree with our social justice and have extensive resources to disrupt our campaigns. We call on the Commission for Social Development and NGO community to help us collect and allocate funds for online grassroots social justice activities. Technology can liberate people if we provide them with the resources to collaborate effectively. It is incumbent on this global body of non-governmental organizations to support social justice projects organized by ordinary people that benefit the entire world as a community.

We Prioritize Horizontal Decision-Making

Democratic decisions should be based on all members of an organization, not just its leadership. We believe the leader's role is to facilitate processes where everyone is involved and not dictate as an authority. The ways in which we motivate social inclusion has fundamentally changed by technology. Today, technology enables everyone to voice their opinion instantly, compared to the slow communication timelines of decades ago. Pirates utilize digital environments as much as possible to ensure that horizontal-decision making takes place. Online tools allow us to incorporate participants from a vast international community and maximize the impact of decision making through participants from all levels of society, including those lacking financial resources to attend events in person. We believe that the voices of all of our members should be equally considered. We adopt an asynchronistic model for physical meetings, meaning those who participate online are able to participate equally as those who are physically present. We ensure that periods between meetings are coordinated through decision-making software. Some of the programs that we use to promote collaborative decision making are Redmine, Loomio, Lime Survey, Mumble, Discourse, Liquid Feedback, Pirate Pads, and other open source online tools. We should always be asking ourselves how we can enable as many people as possible to contribute and benefit from digital governance. We aim to include marginalized sectors of society by providing them with digital technology solutions that they can use to their advantage.

We Motivate Social Inclusion Policies

There are too many relevant fiscal, wage, and social protection policies that our members support to promote social inclusion than could be summarized in this brief statement, such as online regulation monitoring, universal basic income, and assistance for forced migrants. Our organization does not have a monolithic policy or manifesto, and we respect diverse opinions that are presented amicably and within our statutes of participation. We encourage all of the readers of this statement to collaborate with us towards developing innovative solutions for social justice by participating with us in or online dialogues. Information about participating can be obtained on our website: http://pp-international.net. We pin our hopes on multinational bodies, such as the UN Economic and Social Council, to help us provide social justice solutions and opportunities for more individuals to be involved in Pirate activism. We thank the Commission for Social Development for this opportunity to present some of our ideas about promoting social inclusion, and we hope that our statement will motivate some of you to collaborate with us in the future.

United Nations E/CN.5/2019/NGO/35

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
8 November 2018

Original: English

Commission for Social Development
Fifty-seventh session
11–21 February 2019
Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly: priority theme: Addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through fiscal, wage and social protection policies

Statement submitted by Barzani Charity Foundation/BCF, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

18-18920 (E) 131118

Please recycle

Statement

Income inequality between working class age and pensioners in Iraq endangering future development:

Pension is an important social protection and a component of socioeconomic development that is founded on principles of human rights and the inherent right of humans to live a decent and dignified life that is free from deprivation, marginalization and exclusion.

Social protection programs including pension are designed to cope with the risks that endanger the lives and well-being of individuals within the society. This can be achieved through a competent social security system, contribution by working class people and savings, as well as solidarity funding programs, by the states.

Social protection includes a wide range of programs and tools that are interconnected by the public and private sectors. They provide cash transfers and sources of income for poor and vulnerable groups in society. Historically, social protection programs and policies were linked to a set of procedures that were adopted by the developed countries in order to protect individuals from falling into the clutches of poverty and deprivation. These procedures typically included: labor laws, worker protection programs and pension systems.

For almost a century, the Iraqi state has been providing social security to people in less-privilege categories, It also issued a number of laws aimed at protecting those who were considered as venerable citizens. From the beginning, social security and pensions were designed to look after those who were working in its organisations and institutions. However, the government of Iraq later became keen on the horizontal and vertical expansion of the system, expanding the categories of those covered by social protection, and including a greater number of risks to be covered by protection and social security systems to not only the government employees, but to other people too.

Since 2003, further attempts were made by the federal government in Baghdad and regional government of Kurdistan to expand the scope of social protection programs for its citizens. The pension system has been at the heart of these changes. Nevertheless, low income after retirement has recently been raised as a serious concern and the current pension program has left a majority of pensioners below poverty line.

Current Pension System

Iraq has a long history of welfare system, with the very first pension law in Iraq introduced in 1922 (Iraqi Legal Database). With many adjustment and revisions throughout many years, this law was in effect until the more elaborate Civil Service Retirement Act No. 12 was issued in 1930. Furthermore In 1940, another civil service retirement act, No. 43 come into effect, which this law included 53 Articles that were divided among 6 sections. However, the 1940 act was succeeded by the following 3 laws:

Law of Civil Pension No. 33 of 1966

The Unified Pension Law No.27/2006, covering state employees

The Unified Pensions Law No.9/2014, covering state employees

Impact and ineffective of the current pension and social security program:

The current provisions of the retirement law in Iraq apply to all state and public sector employees, temporary staff, some of this law is not applicable in the Kurdistan region of Iraq, those in charge of public service, and state employees in the mixed sector recruited before 9 April 2003 who have retired or are retiring due to illness or disability, old age or death.

The most positive gains implied by law are to double the minimum excluding Kurdistan region (Article 21/IV). The law also provided new gains for working mothers. Which is another good aspect of the law; it addressed multiple types of retirement in a single law.

Another law is currently in the works. Despite the fact that laws and regulations relating to social protection gave citizens additional rights and privileges and increased the number of beneficiaries eligible for social protection, the application of the programs was not nearly as perfect as it looked on paper. This was especially true for those working outside the state institutions. In reality, the national retirement system covered only 15% of the public sector workforce (World Bank, Pensions in Iraq: Issues, General Guidelines for Reform and Potential Fiscal Implications).

The impact of the latest reform is that it established an independent entity to manage the national retirement fund. This entity will be responsible for managing deposits of financial assets according to actuarial bases. According to the World Bank, the Iraqi pension systems faces problems related to efficiency, equity and sustainability of funding. The implicit rates of return on contributions that are above sustainable levels and compromise the long-term viability of the system and weak governance structures and administrative capacity have put many venerable people at high risk of poverty and their safety net no longer granted.

As outlined above, the Iraqi state has been very proactive in providing income security for people after their retirement. Since 2003, many laws have been introduced. However, several obstacles have impeded social security program in particular in relation to protections for senior citizens. The most serious challenges are that the network became vulnerable to the unjust and careless application of the beneficiary selection on political association criteria, which has led to the exclusion of many poor people.

In addition to above barriers, bureaucratic procedures, the lack of a clear information base, the lack of social researchers, and to some extend corruption and political intervention into the pension system have put the very venerable people into below poverty line.

Recommendation to mitigate the risk

Iraq is one of the wealthiest countries in the region when come to natural resources, and according to current demographic statistics, Iraq has the youngest population in the region. These factors should help Iraq to recover from any pension fund shortages, however, without following actions, senior citizens will not able to live their remaining life with the dignity they deserve, and they will be victims of an unjust system:

The UN should adopt a resolution that makes the Federal and regional government of Iraq to make pensioners right as priority and end the inequality of income.

Narrowing the gap of pension income between special privileges to members of political based figures and ordinary civil servant pensioners

Promoting and encouraging the public to save and the government to invest in health insurance for senior citizens.

Any future development fund release from the international community to Iraq should be conditional to improve income inequality.

Less politicization of pension and social security program by Iraq political entities.

Reconciling pension law between the central and regional authority, to end inequality of pension right and illegibility in the country.

United Nations E/CN.5/2019/NGO/36

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
8 November 2018

Original: English

Commission for Social Development
Fifty-seventh session
11–21 February 2019
Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly: Priority Theme: Addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through fiscal, wage and social protection policies

Statement submitted by Ramola Bhar Charitable Trust, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

18-18921 (E) 121118

Please recycle

Statement

Role of Family in Achieving Social Inclusion

Social inclusion stands at the core of community intervention and development. The global south continues to face challenges between the various pillars of the community. There is a continued lack of a holistic development strategy in national politics. India, in its nature, is a complex nation-state with multiple aspects impacting national policy. With particular focus by the current government on WASH, technological innovation, and environment, the issues of community development concerning the elderly, youth, differently able, and family remain in a position of intervention. Besides, the efforts of the government through legal and policy intervention, the strong network of NGO's and CSO's are striving to focus on issues mentioned above to have a deeper intervention which will result in a holistic and right based approach for community development. Ramola Bhar Charitable Trust through its global movement Stop Trafficking and Oppression of Children and Women attempts to create space for resolution of family issues through project implementation to achieve gender equality for the empowerment of women. Currently, Ramola Bhar Charitable Trust has adopted five slum clusters in Delhi. Although the main aim of the organization is to combat the crime of Human Trafficking, the efforts of community development are crucially achieving this goal. The organization after more than 25 years of intervention has learned it the hard way that the challenge doesn't end after a survivor has been rescued and repatriated and/or rehabilitated. Greater, the challenge is to stop the instances of re-trafficking. Family issues play a vital role in the area of work of combating Human Trafficking as well as achievement of social inclusion.

With the global call for ending violence against children and women, inclusion becomes crucial for peace and harmony. As one discusses equality of sexes, it is essential to consider not only women as change agents but also boys and men as the stakeholders to achieve a stable family. As discussed in the paper "The Role of Families and Family Policies in Achieving Inclusive Societies. Focus on Sustainable Development Goals 16 & 11: Ensuring Social Rights through Legal Frameworks, Participation, Housing, and Public Green Spaces" published by Department of Economic and Social Affairs, family is at the core for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and as a proper mechanism to achieve social inclusion. I would like to stress that besides SDGs 11 and 16, family stability and inclusion also plays a massive role in SDG 5. I would like to stress that, until there is a sense of equality and mutual respect within families towards one another, the idea of social inclusion will continue to stay incomplete. Although the previous statement may sound very narrow in approach, I would like to explain further on the point by referring and taking support from the theory of emotional intelligence.

While discussing emotional intelligence, it is essential to know how it can be implemented for social inclusion. Prior to delving in the explanation of how emotional intelligence can be applied for resolving the family issue, it is important to revisit the definition of emotional intelligence and how emotional intelligence is a step further from the application of empathy for community development. Awareness of one's own emotions as well as others, the ability to use the existing emotions to solve the problems, and managing emotions are emotional intelligence. In simple words, emotional intelligence is a way to create a logical solution using intelligence to have a more human approach towards an issue. Emotional intelligence is a step forward from being empathetic, as empathy is only discussing the premise to understand the other party's emotions. Emotional intelligence is discussing a person's ability to solve problems after considering emotions involved.

The family is the first institution of the society. Upbringing has a large impact on a person's understanding and actions in society. By having Emotional Intelligence as the foundation for social inclusion policy, the community can become equal for all. Following an understanding of the society, implementing such concept of psychology can seem a far-fetched idea and will face resistance. Nonetheless, its implementation at the family level can benefit the members of the family, as well as the community. The five pillars of emotional intelligence are: self-awareness, self-management, adaptability, empathy, and conflict management. These can be implemented as part of the salient features of projects implemented in community development. The conflict that hinders social inclusion, safety, and peace is the lack of understanding of the issue and a person being forced by either an ideology or a situation.

There are numerous exercises for developing emotional intelligence within family members resulting in social inclusion which will lead to broader community development. For instance, in the slum clusters where RBC trust functions for community and social development, family conflicts are the most common issues. There are two ways to intervene when mediating to solve conflicts among family members; 1) Using the medium of empathy and trying to explain the other person's situation, and/or 2) providing a solution which has an interest of both the parties. Both the techniques have shown progress in dealing with family matters. Nevertheless, the issue is that the solution that emerged following our intervention was merely situational and such conflicts would occur often with the same people involved. The aim is to create a just society where equality prevails for all. Hence, by understanding and implementing emotional intelligence for social inclusion, specifically while dealing with family issues, organizations can implement the concept of emotional intelligence not merely as part of the project but as a character necessary to be built. RBC Trust (Project- STOP) is in process of designing special activities which will work simultaneously to our existing work with the communities. The idea is to make emotional intelligence as an integral part of an individual's character.

United Nations E/CN.5/2019/NGO/37

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
8 November 2018

Original: English

Commission for Social Development
Fifty-seventh session
11–21 February 2019
Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly: Priority Theme: Addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through fiscal, wage and social protection policies

Statement submitted by Fundación Novia Salcedo, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

18-18022 (E) 191118 191118

Statement

In this written statement, Fundación Novia Salcedo, which is helping young people to become more employable, wishes to highlight the growing inequalities between and within generations that are ever more dramatically affecting youth at the global level, focusing on the situation of young people in our immediate vicinity.

Academics and institutions have found that the youth labour market suffers from some features that distinguish it from the adult market and that are preventing young people from fully participating in that market (Flek, Hála and Mysiková, 2017; O'Reilly, Smith, Nazio and Moyart, 2017). These features are: above average unemployment rates, high percentages of unintended temporary or part-time work, difficulty of changing jobs, low level of entrepreneurship and self-employment and considerable differences among young people as regards training. There is also agreement that, although this problem existed prior to the 2008 crisis, it has worsened over the last decade, aggravating inequality between the younger and the more mature generations and between the more and the less fortunate youth sectors, threatening to create chronic job insecurity and to have lasting consequences for the professional development and the lives of young people.

In the immediate vicinity of the Fundación Novia Salcedo, the Basque Autonomous Community (traditionally one of the most prosperous and developed regions of Spain) has an unemployment rate of 27 per cent for young men and 27.4 per cent for young women (report on the labour market situation of young people in the Basque Autonomous Community, Lanbide, 2017). The average salary of young people has declined by 21 per cent on average since 2008. In addition, unemployment rates are considerably higher for the least educated. This also perpetuates inequality between family units with different at different social and economic levels. Both an official body (the Organisation for European Co-operation and Development (OECD)) and researchers (O'Reilly and colleagues, 2017) have found that cultural transmission in families makes it difficult for people whose parents have little education to aspire to higher education levels themselves. For example, in Spain inter-generational educational mobility is particularly low: more than half the adults whose parents did not benefit from advanced secondary education did not reach that level either. Lastly, among young people with the highest education levels, there is often a discrepancy between their level of education and their first job, for which they are over-qualified. This has a negative effect on all young people. On the one hand, those with less training find that the jobs for which they were trained have been taken. On the other hand, young people with more education are working in jobs at a level and with pay lower than what they should accept and in sectors other than those in which they are interested in the long term. This makes it difficult for them to find jobs commensurate with their training, to negotiate pay rises subsequently and to develop professionally in the areas where their interests really lie.

The Fundación Novia Salcedo has been helping young people to become more employable for almost 40 years, focusing on enabling those with advanced training to find work suited to their training and interests. In order to do so, it is providing training and guidance to provide young men and young women with a compass to guide their first steps in the complex labour market. From this range of initiatives, we should like in this statement to single out two: paid internships in firms and the LanAldi programme to help young people.

The programme of paid internships gives young people who have completed university studies or advanced vocational studies an opportunity for an initial contact with the world of work for a period of up to 12 months. In order to make this experience as useful as possible for the interns and not a source of job insecurity, we

set quality standards reflecting those advocated by ILO: in addition to the time limitation, monitoring of the intern's development and of the work of his or her mentor in the company, and payment of a stipend roughly equivalent to the minimum wage. The stipend helps to meet some of the intern's needs and provides initial support for the construction of a plan for independent living, while dignifying the work done for the firm. OECD notes that the initial experience in the labour market has a profound influence on later working life, since it is the starting-point for negotiating the conditions of subsequent experiences. Thus receipt of earnings approximating the minimum wage is a starting-point from which young people can begin to improve their working conditions in subsequent jobs.

Secondly, the LanAldi programme brings young people still receiving advanced secondary education closer to the world of work. The goal is for young people to familiarize themselves, through various activities, with the work environment for the jobs which they find most interesting. It provides vocational guidance at a point when young people still have time to decide which higher or secondary studies they wish to pursue and thus minimizes job switching once they have started working. If they can start by acquiring work experience in the professional area in which they will find themselves in the long term, they will be able to start off in jobs with better working conditions and this will directly impact their quality of life.

In conclusion, we should like to mention some public policies that can help to improve the situation of young people, based on our own experience and on the proposals made by organizations (Lanbide, OECD) and academics (O'Reilly and colleagues, 2017). As an organization with a limited sphere of action, we can identify a series of issues that could be tackled by other organizations and through collaboration among the various stakeholders working to promote the all-round development of young people. Firstly, in order to bridge generation gaps in terms of knowledge of the labour market, it would be interesting for new recruits to be mentored by people with extensive work experience. Handing the torch to the next generation would thus not create a brain drain for firms but would reduce the inequality between younger and older workers in term of skills and know-how. Secondly, organizations and education centres should enhance their collaboration so that they can provide an entry into the world of work for the young men and women graduating from the education system. In addition, there should be programmes to help young people who chose to train in areas in which job placement is difficult. In the current context, this is true of training in the humanities and the arts. It is crucial to help these young people to find a place in the labour market where they can develop professionally, since a knowledge-based society and economy cannot afford the luxury of letting so much human and intellectual capital go to waste.

Lastly, the inequalities affecting young people must be tackled because, in addition to their negative consequences for those experiencing them, they can seriously jeopardize global society as a whole.

United Nations E/CN.5/2019/NGO/38

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
8 November 2018

Original: English

Commission for Social Development
Fifty-seventh session
11–21 February 2019
Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly: Priority Theme: Addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through fiscal, wage and social protection policies

Statement submitted by Concepts of Truth, Inc., a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

18-18923 (E) 141118

Please recycle

Statement

Paving the Way for Equality and Social Inclusion: Education on Holistic Health as a Social Protection Policy

Equality and social inclusion begin with the individual. Social protection policies that intend to fight poverty are useless without a basic understanding of what poverty truly is. Poverty places individuals at a huge disadvantage when it comes to equality and social inclusion. Many are uninformed about the true nature of poverty. The reality is that poverty is more than the lack of income and resources necessary for insuring a livelihood. The UN's report on the Sustainable Development Goals finds that poverty includes hunger, malnutrition, limited access to education, social discrimination, exclusion, and the lack of participation in decision-making. Poverty is multidimensional. In essence, material poverty frequently coexists with educational, social, and emotional poverty. It is far easier to assume that the world's problems would be solved with more money. However, how can one feel equal and included in society if they struggle to cope with the pain and suffering of these abstract forms of poverty? It is clear that equality and social inclusion must begin with providing social policies that not only aim to aid those who need resources, but to also protect the more abstract forms of poverty: limited or no access to education, social discrimination, exclusion, and emotional poverty. Then, and only then, can we attain equality and social inclusion.

Concepts of Truth International (COTI) aims to educate the whole person to make healthy life choices and empower future generations. As a method of social protection, COTI recognizes the power of providing access to education on holistic health to address the complex issues of inequality and challenges to social inclusion. COTI's sexual health curriculum teaches that the human person exists as a multidimensional being and that one's sexuality is integrated in all dimensions of their humanity. The lessons stress that one's sexual health depends on the choice to save sex for one monogamous partner and to make healthy informed choices in relationships. These choices affect the whole person's present and future well-being as well as the well-being of their progeny. For those who have experienced reproductive loss or sexual trauma, COTI provides compassionate and liberating counseling for them and their loved ones, regardless of their faith, lack of faith, or background. In this way, COTI helps women and men find holistic health through the grieving process as they learn to allow healing, receive comfort, and find peace. Through providing access to this education for those who are suffering, women and men will find relief after reproductive loss or sexual trauma.

Successfully implementing holistic health care solutions requires a specific method developed by COTI. The method consists of building Awareness, providing Access, effectively Communicating, fully Committing, and dedicating Time (also known as COTI's "AACCT" model). First, there must be awareness of the problem. So many of the wounds that people suffer are completely invisible to outsiders. Building awareness allows individuals and communities to acknowledge and accept trauma, as well as prevent those from discriminating against the ones who suffer. With new awareness comes a new need. The need for access to holistic health education. This means providing the victims of trauma and loss access to those who can help them, so that their voices can be heard. Communication is then key to processing past events and emotions in a restorative manner and plotting out healthy constructive strategies for the future. Next is commitment, a central component to the healing process. Cementing a committed relationship between the clients and the counselors ensures that the former receive consistent and effective treatments. Finally, time is necessary to allow the wounded to reintegrate into society and pull out of their emotional poverty.

COTI acts to spread awareness of the possible trauma of reproductive loss and its consequences on individuals and societies by providing worldwide access to competent and caring counselors, who acknowledge and affirm the client's emotions. COTI's counselors and consultants communicate deeply and effectively with their clients, instilling in each individual a due sense of human dignity deserving of love. COTI is committed to providing each person with knowledge that will enrich their sexual and mental health and release them from the pain and guilt of past reproductive loss or sexual trauma, which often contributes to multidimensional poverty. Providing everyone with the equal ability to access this type of healing paves the way for social inclusion. Over time, COTI thus equips each person with the confidence they need to be free from the emotional suffering that impoverishes them and their relationships.

The biggest challenge is that many traumatic wounds are on the inside, not visible to the human eye. However, the visible coping mechanisms used to manage these unresolved losses are undeniably catastrophic. The fallout is devastating personally, relationally, and economically to the individual and to those who love them. It is imperative to acknowledge grief and traumatic experiences. The world has become much smaller because of modes of instant communication. We watch on the nightly news natural disasters, terrorist attacks, and other international devastations. The images of those who are wounded, helpless and trapped are deeply imbedded into our psyches. Because of this, many have lost hope. However, we can reach those who are wounded, helpless and trapped when we go from global to local. COTI does so by educating and empowering the individual. By leading the individually wounded toward personal sustainability, we can lead individual communities toward societal sustainability, and, eventually, our world can attain global sustainability.

When the emotionally impoverished are bullied into silence or shame, their growth as a member of their community is halted. When the trauma is processed through careful counseling, what results is not only the potential for healing, but the potential to empower others to make healthy life choices. COTI's staff have experienced this first hand. They understand that when an individual walks through this process, they will continue to move forward to holistic well-being and make healthy life-choices. In turn, the individual will have the ability to inspire others to seek out healing. No longer do those hurting have to try and ignore the pain of traumatic losses. With healing, they can find their voice, receive comfort, practical life-skills, and feel like a fully active and adjusted member of society. They are able move forward and thrive in their community.

Concepts of Truth, Inc. recommends that Member States and this Commission:

- Implement the COTI method of using Awareness, Access, Communication, Commitment, and Time (COTI's "AACCT" method) to effectively educate individuals on holistic health;
- Enact policies requiring accountability from member states to educate with sexual health programs that incorporate educating the whole person;
- Promote measures that all mental health care programs worldwide provide practices for holistic health care in order to allow the processing of traumatic events to be in safe environment with safe persons.

If the Commission for Social Development and Member States implement these recommendations as social protections, we believe the citizens who choose to participate will be empowered to taking another step toward eradicating personal, familial, communal, and international poverty. In this way, equality and social inclusion can be achieved, attaining sustainable development for all.